



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/753,496	01/09/2004	Jin Woong Kim	2832-0172P	6823
2292	7590	09/10/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			STINSON, FRANKIE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/10/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/753,496	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.	
Examiner FRANKIE L. STINSON	Art Unit 1746	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 and 21-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7-12-7
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1746

1. The indicated allowability of claims 2-17 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Hockh et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 14, 17, 18, 22, 25-29 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hockh et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 5,180,438) in view of either Fraraccio (U. S. Pat. No. 2,574,098) or Koblenzer (U. S. Pat. No. 4,471,792).

Re claim 1, Hockh is cited disclosing a steam jet drum washing machine comprising:

a tub (11) adapted so that water-water (col. 3, line 34-36) is supplied into the tub;

a drum (16) rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that articles are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;

a steam generator (80) to heat water to obtain steam and to supply the steam into the tub and the drum; and

a water-supply unit (46) to supply the water into the tub and to the steam generator that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the casing and the washing of the clothes. The patents to Fraraccio and Koblenzer are each cited disclosing the casing as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Hockh, to include a casing as taught by either

Art Unit: 1746

Fraraccio or Koblenzer, for the purpose of providing a more aesthetic arrangement and for the purpose of covering the components of the apparatus to protect workers. As for the cleaning of clothes, the same is of little patentable weight in that the body of the claim fails to recite any limitations that would limit the device for cleaning clothes only. Nonetheless, Koblenzer is cited the arrangement of cleaning articles like that in Hockh, as well as clothes (col. 1, lines 34-49, "garments", line 45). Re claims 2, 18, 21 and 22, Hockh is cited disclosing the a steam jet drum washing machine comprising:

a tub disposed in a casing and adapted so that water is supplied into the tub; a drum rotatably mounted in the tub and adapted so that clothes are put in the drum and the water is supplied into the drum;

a water-supply unit disposed at one side of the tub for supplying the water into the tub and the drum; and

a steam generator connected to the water-supply unit for heating the water to obtain high-temperature and high-pressure steam, and supplying the high-temperature and high-pressure steam into the tub and the drum, wherein the water-supply unit includes:

a water-supply tube (46, 86) connected at one end thereof to the steam generator for supplying the water into the steam generator; and

a steam tube (84) having one end connected to the steam generator and the other end disposed in the tub and the drum for supplying the steam into the tub and the drum that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the washing of clothes and the

Art Unit: 1746

casing. Therefore Fraraccio and Koblenzer are cited as applied above. Re claim 3, Hockh discloses the valve (26, 62). Re claim 3, Hockh discloses the nozzle (48). Re claims 17, 25-28, to locate the generator as claimed is deemed to be a mere rearrangement of parts absent any new or unobvious results. (see MPEP 2144.04 REVERSAL, DUPLICATION OR RE-ARRANGEMENT OF PARTS). Re claim 29, Hockh discloses the generator as claimed. Re claim 34, Hockh disclose the steam tubes as claimed.

4. Claims 5, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Mollinari (U. S. Pat. No. 3,615,822).

Claims 5 and 23 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the gasket. Mollinari is cited disclosing the gasket as claimed (col.4, lines 30-34). It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the arrangement of Hockh, to include a gasket as taught by Mollinari, for the purpose of preventing the leakage of the steam, as is common in the art. Re claims 24, Hockh discloses the nozzle.

5. Claims 6-10, 13-16, 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of either Violi (U. S. Pat. No. 5,355,840) or Treiber et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 4,287,407) .

Claim 6 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the steam generator having container, heater and inlet/outlet valves as claimed. The same is deemed to be

Art Unit: 1746

generally typical in steam generators, (note the corresponding components in Hockh) nonetheless, Violi or Treiber (see abstract in each) discloses the components as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the generator of Hockh, to be as taught by either Violi or Treiber, since this is considered to be a mere substitution of equivalents. All of the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Re claims 7-10, 13-16, 30 and 33 Violi and Treiber also disclose the generator being controlled as a function of the temperature, pressure and water level, typical in the art.

6. Claims 11 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Groom (U. S. Pat. No. 3,410,986)

Claims 11 and 32 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the thermal insulation. Nonetheless, Groom discloses the thermal insulating as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ thermal insulating as taught by Groom for the purpose of preventing injury to the user.

7. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of Pickering (U. S. Pat. No. 3,035,381)

Art Unit: 1746

Claim 12 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the upper part and the lower part being connected together Pickering discloses the upper (26) and the lower part (21) being connected together as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ generator in Hockh, as taught by Pickering since this is consider to be a mere substitution of equivalents .

8. Claim 19 stands allowed.

9. Claim 20 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Champeau, Japan'595, WIPO'493, Japan'192, Japan'382, Bowerbank, note the generators.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1746

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls



FRANKIE L. STINSON
Primary Examiner
GROUP ART UNIT 1746